

Policy On Telephonic Appearances
At Hearings Before
The Honorable K. Rodney May
Effective 8/16/2010

1. Generally.

- a. Subject to the restrictions and procedures set forth below, telephonic appearances must be arranged by contacting **CourtCall** at **866-582-6878 not later than 5 p.m. Eastern Time** on the business day prior to the hearing date.
- b. CourtCall will provide counsel with written confirmation of a telephonic appearance and give counsel a number to call to make a telephonic appearance. It is counsel's responsibility to dial into the call by the time of the scheduled hearing. CourtCall does not place calls to counsel.
- c. The initial charge per participant for a CourtCall appearance is \$30.00 for the first 45 minutes and \$7.00 for each additional 15 minute increment. These charges may from time to time be subject to revision by CourtCall. If you do not timely call and connect with the CourtCall operator, you will be billed for the call, and the hearing will proceed in your absence.

2. Restrictions.

- a. Unless otherwise permitted by the Court prior to the hearing, only practicing attorneys who reside outside the Tampa Division may appear telephonically.
- b. Telephonic appearances are limited to the following matters:
 - i. Pretrial Hearings.
 - ii. Preliminary Hearings.
 - iii. Scheduling and Status Conferences.
 - iv. Chapter 11 Hearings.
- c. Parties wishing to appear telephonically at any other type of hearing before Judge May must contact the Courtroom Administrator at 813-301-5118 to request permission to appear by phone. If approved, counsel will be referred to CourtCall to arrange the appearance.
- d. Participation of counsel appearing by telephone will be limited to a short statement or argument in support of or in opposition to the relief requested. Counsel may not engage in extended argument or participate in the introduction of evidence or examination of witnesses if the Court determines it is appropriate to receive evidence at the scheduled hearing.

3. General Procedures.

- a. To ensure the quality of the record, the use of speaker phones is prohibited. When not speaking, counsel should cover the telephone handset or use the mute option to minimize background noise. Failure to comply with the foregoing may result in the call being terminated.
- b. At the time of your hearing, you may initially be in the listening mode in which case you will be able to hear the case before yours just as if you were in the courtroom.
- c. After your call is connected to the courtroom, the Courtroom Administrator will call the case and the Judge will request appearances and direct the manner in which the hearing will proceed.
- d. Each time you speak, you should identify yourself for the record.
- e. If there is an equipment failure or audible background noise, the Court may mute or disconnect the call and continue with the hearing without the participation of counsel appearing telephonically. While the Court will not “default” the party because of counsel’s inability to participate due to an equipment failure, counsel assumes the risk of the prejudice that may result from not being present in person.